

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2009

SWAC Members

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Mark Glazer, Chair | Odell Hall | Kurt Osuch |
| David Frank, Vice Chair | Marcia Harrington | Craig Simoneau |
| Sara Ducey | Paula Jenson | Steve Sprague |
| Susan Filocco | Lee Levine | Ed Violette |
| Steve Findley | Marcia Marks | |

Absent: E. Lee

County Staff

Guests

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bill Davidson, DSWS | Peter Hartwell, Covanta Energy |
| Robin Ennis, DSWS | |
| Angela Jordan, DSWS | |
| Eileen Kao, DSWS | |
| Peter Karasik, DSWS | |
| Anthony Skinner, DSWS | |

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 p.m. on November 3, 2009, at the Executive Office Building in the 6th Floor conference room.

The Chair welcomed everyone at the meeting, and introductions were made. He thanked the Vice Chair for conducting last month's meeting in his absence.

Mr. Sprague was present via teleconference.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting were not approved, so the membership has adequate time to evaluate them. Ms. Marks stated that the minutes were submitted late and a request for more time to review was made. She stated that she would like to see the minutes presented earlier. Ms. Jordan said the minutes will be submitted within 2 weeks of the meeting.

Elections – The candidates for Chair were the incumbent Mark Glazer and Kurt Osuch. The Chair introduced the candidates. The elections for Chair and Vice Chair commenced after each nominee said a few words about their candidacy. The candidates for Vice Chair were Paula Jenson and Steve Sprague.

The Chair called for any additional nominations to be made.

Election Results: Chair - Mark Glazer
 Vice Chair - Steve Sprague

Subcommittee/ Reports – No subcommittees met. Ms. Jenson mentioned that one committee attempted to meet.

The 2010 meeting calendar was approved and the Chair went through it.

SWAC Vacancies - Ms. Harrington inquired about the recruitment of new SWAC members. The Chair said that there is currently one applicant. January is realistic for new members to be approved, though there is hope for December. Ms. Marks inquired about which members are serving on the nominating committee, who has applied, and how many seats are vacant. Mr. Osuch asked if SWAC could operate understaffed, and if all interviews can be conducted at once. The Chair answered that it is easier to perform all of the interviews at once, so the CE and the County Council can approve the applicants together. Ms. Ducey inquired about marketing efforts to recruit more interested applicants. The Chair's response was that announcements are advertised. He also encouraged the membership to talk to friends who may be a perfect fit for the group.

FY09 Tonnage Measurements - Ms. Filocco asked if January's meeting featuring the Parks Service will just be a presentation or a discussion as well. The Chair said that the meeting will be comprised of a presentation and question and answer session.

Ms. Filocco then opened dialogue regarding her email about the metrics reflecting the changing environment. She asked the committee to work on the best methods to reflect the changes (i.e. consumers buying less, shopping smarter, creating less to recycle). She asked if the desired measurements of an upward trend of recycling tonnages could be portrayed as an oxymoron. She asked Ms. Kao for her feelings about it, and if it can be discussed. Ms. Kao said that in lieu of the email traffic the whole committee should discuss and determine how to handle this matter versus a subcommittee. Ms. Kao stated that subcommittees do a lot of leg work, and can put forth critical information they find to be presented to the full SWAC. DSWS is currently performing final quality assurance and quality control measures on the FY09 tonnage numbers. The trash tonnage has fallen due to a down economy. The informal discussion from last meeting resulted in other ways to look at the numbers though current measurements are mandated and should be published this month. The achievements must be reported to the State of Maryland, County Executive, and County Council. Employee performance plans also pinpoint achievements. Data points will not be replaced easily. Mr. Osuch asked if a subcommittee could be created to address this issue. The Chair made a request for SWAC to be notified with the FY09 results, when they are available. After numbers are in, Ms. Kao said that they will be shared with the committee and we'll go from there.

An ad hoc committee was looking probable and the committee will include Ms. Ducey, Ms. Filocco, Ms. Jenson, and Mr. Osuch. The committee will meet when the numbers are in from DSWS.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

The Chair introduced the Section Chiefs, who head the five sections of the Division of Solid Waste Services. Each chief gave an overview of their respective sections

- **Bill Davidson, Northern Operations & Strategic Planning** – Mr. Davidson heads the section responsible for the long-term solid waste management and planning, as well as the operations of the Resource Recovery and Composting Facilities.
 - The County's Ten Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, outlines the County's plan of action for continued solid waste management. Under State law, that Plan must be updated every three years. The current update was approved by the County Council on March 24, 2009 and submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). MDE has since required the County to make certain technical changes which are in process.
 - The County's Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), also variously called the "waste-to-energy" (WTE) or "energy-from-waste" (EFW) facility, receives county waste that is either not recycled or not recyclable, and recovers from that waste its useful energy content in the form of electricity for sale. The facility is located next to the Mirant power plant in Dickerson, MD. The RRF also recovers the ferrous metals contained in that waste. Processing at the RRF minimizes the environmental impact of waste disposal and also reduces, by about 85 percent, the volume of landfill space otherwise required for waste disposal. Sale of electricity and ferrous metals reduce operating costs to the County. RRF emissions are monitored by a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS) and reported on the County's website. While CEMS are required nationwide, Montgomery County's is the only facility which reports its emissions in real-time on the www. Covanta Montgomery is the contract operator of the facility.
 - The RRF uses state-of-the-art LNTM technology to cut its NOx emissions by half, and our's is the first publicly owned facility to do this. "NOx" is the chemical designation for all oxides of nitrogen, and all forms of NOx are precursors to the formation ozone in the low atmosphere. Our region is a "non-attainment" area with respect to the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for ozone. This NOx reduction voluntarily achieved at our RRF is a contribution of unusual magnitude for what a local government can do toward solving the regional ozone issue—it equates to taking 70,000 cars off the road.
 - In addition to NOx emissions, the County is committed to a solid waste system-wide accounting of its contribution to worldwide greenhouse gasses (GHGs). While challenging due to system complexity, variation in assessment tools and the evolving nature of our nation's GHG regulatory framework, the County is committed to incorporating GHG effects into all major solid waste management decisions.
 - The Montgomery County Yard Trim Composting Facility (YTCF) located in Dickerson, MD, converts all leaves and grass collected in

the County into soil amendment and landscaping products. All woody material received by the County is converted to mulch at the transfer station and distributed to market from that location, so that only leaves and grass are transported to the YTCF for composting. At the YTCF, the County uses a well-established aerated static pile composting process to produce two products — Leafgro™ and Compro™ — the sales of which reduce net County operating costs. Composting at the YTCF involves a natural organic process with differing operations over an annual cycle. During the composting process, temperatures are monitored 24/7, final screening bagging take place under roof, and all operations take place on an asphalt pad such that all storm water runoff is managed via three ponds. There is never any water discharge violation. When needed, water is recycled back into the composting piles. The marketplace for soil amendments and landscaping products is competitive and evolving. To assure the recycling objective (e.g. distribution into the market place), but also to maximize revenue and thus minimize net operating costs, the County works to assure consistent product quality and is also examining opportunities for product diversity. Maryland Environmental Service (MES) is the contract operator of the YTCF.

- **Robin Ennis, Collections** - Ms. Ennis heads the section responsible for the collection of refuse and recycling from single-family homes in the County. She stated that the staff and collection contractors do an outstanding job.
 - The call center receives an average of 15-30 complaints per day reporting missed collections, but recently a streak of three days occurred without a single complaint being received. The Division's call center is moving to the County's new central call center. The transition has been challenging, but smooth so far.
 - Collection contractors will be required to convert their diesel collection trucks to compressed natural gas (CNG) collection trucks by 2010. CNG is a product of the USA and eliminates use of fossil fuels. The price for diesel has been as high as \$4.00 per gallon, but CNG will be priced at \$1.79 per gallon. This fuel conversion will be better for the environment, since the emissions from the Division's solid waste operations have contributed to pollution. The cost savings realized will be greater than the cost of a truck for the County's contractors. The conversion will cost businesses \$50,000, but \$32,000 will be recovered in the form of a tax credit from of the federal stimulus package.
- **Eileen Kao, Waste Reduction and Recycling** – Ms. Kao heads the section responsible for waste reduction and recycling initiatives for single-family and multi-family residents, multi-family properties and businesses. The County Council established a goal to recycle 50 percent of all waste generated. The County Executive established regulations mandating recycling. The goal of DSWS is to increase waste reduction, as well as to increase the County's recycling rate as much as possible to meet the 50 percent recycling goal.

- In 1992, the County Executive passed the Executive Regulation that all residential dwellings, multi-family properties and businesses must recycle. DSWS conducts three to four site visits per year to each multi-family property (totaling 3,500), and over 10,000 site visits to businesses per year to ensure all are recycling in accordance with Montgomery County's recycling laws, and to recommend improvements to maximize the amount of materials recycled.
 - The County provides no curbside collection of recyclables to multi-family properties or businesses, but DSWS will provide outreach, education, training, guidance, and technical support to meet recycling goals. The ability to reach every responsible party in all single homes and multi-family properties and in all non-residential properties throughout the County remains a challenge, but County staff and volunteers are very committed and dedicated to see the recycling goal achieved.
 - In FY08, the County's overall recycling rate was 44.3 percent. While the rate climbs every year, SWAC members can help with businesses by talking with business contacts and encouraging them to recycle more. Multi-family dwellings are the toughest sector to bring about improvements in due to space constraints, language needs, and a higher turnover of residents and property management staff. The single-family sector has a recycling rate of greater than 50 percent. Businesses together are achieving a respectable recycling rate of 40 percent, but since businesses together generate slightly more than half of the County's overall waste, this is the sector where there is the most opportunity for significantly increasing recycling.
- **Peter Karasik, Central Operations** – Mr. Karasik heads the section responsible for the operation of the waste transfer and recycling facilities as well as maintenance of the county's closed landfills. He is in charge of the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station, the Recycling Center, and maintenance of the closed Gude and Oaks Landfills. His section also administers the County's out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract and the household hazardous waste and ECOWISE programs as well as several waste reduction programs. The Transfer Station and the Recycling Center handle the processing of waste including household hazardous waste, yard waste, scrap metal, used oil and antifreeze, vegetable oil, textiles, mixed paper and commingled plastic, glass and metal containers. The closed landfills each host a gas-to-energy facility. The Oaks Landfill also has a leachate pretreatment facility. The Gude Landfill, which predated all modern landfill regulations, is currently undergoing a nature and extent study to assess environmental effects and identify potential remediation alternatives. Thousands of vehicles come through the Transfer Station to drop off waste and recyclables. Mr. Karasik encouraged members to deliberate on the possibility of accepting additional materials at County waste facilities by researching other jurisdictions.

- Chapter 48 of the County Code regulates the proper way to handle and dispose of waste as well as the collection of waste and the licensing of collection vehicles. The chapter is currently being redrafted in order to update its content to reflect current standards...
 - DSWS is considering the acceptance of bulky plastics. At this time, that type of plastic would fetch between \$10-20 per ton versus the approximately \$500 per ton currently paid to the County for more valuable plastics such as the clear High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) used in milk jugs.
 - There was a struggle for years to develop a successful gas-to-energy project at the Oaks landfill. Success finally came when the County fronted the capital for the plant. The money will eventually be recouped through the revenue generated by the energy produced from the landfill's methane gas. The Oaks gas-to-energy plant has been in operation since June, 2009.
 - The County evaluated single stream recycling vs. the current dual stream system (where there are two containers; one for mixed paper and one for commingled containers). The costs of switching from a dual stream system to a single stream system are prohibitive.
- **Anthony Skinner, Business Manager** – Mr. Skinner heads the section responsible for revenue management and forecasting, contract administration, and information technology. The section's strategic plan is to stay ahead of the curve with budgets that are logical. Division of Solid Waste Services is a special fund called an Enterprise Fund, which is subsidized by service charge revenue. The goal of setting ideal rates is to cover all expenses.
 - The Office of Management and Budget, who regulates the County's General and Special Funds, requests six-year budget plans from the Division, and currently, FY11 data is being compiled.
 - Both household rate data and DSWS employment data are tracked by DSWS accountants and financial specialists for accuracy.
 - The Division of Solid Waste Services has a staff of 87 people.
 - The budget for FY10 is \$102.4 million.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Findley reported that the committee was misinformed in October's meeting. He indicated that the minutes weren't wrong, but his recollection regarding County parks recycling was incorrect. Mr. Findley said that in co-locating the recycling receptacles with every trash bin was true for large parks and approximately 44 facilities that he managed, but not necessarily the fact for smaller local parks. Recycling initiatives for over 300 County parks is a standing issue and opportunities to recycle would involve increasing waste collections.

Waste Management, M-NCPPC's waste contractor, would inevitably submit contracts with higher costs or new trucks would need to be purchased. The last program Mr. Findley was aware of involved the utilization of recycling bags left at the parks for users to dispose of recyclables with instructions printed on signs. He does is not aware of the outcome of that program, since his departure from that section of M-NCPPC. Mr. Findley is confident that M-NCPPC personnel will be receptive to the committee's questions and they will provide accurate updates on on-going programs. As an employee of M-NCPPC, Mr. Findley revealed that he is impressed with SWAC.

- Ms. Filocco asked if there would be an increase in costs if the parks were included on the County's waste collection route for recyclables, and if Robin's group could work with M-NCPPC. She was under the impression that costs would not increase significantly if the pick ups were along regular routes. Ms. Ennis stated that the change would not be a clean-cut process. The hauler contracts to be renegotiated through the RFP process to include the parks, if that became a possibility. Mr. Simoneau added that at times recyclables are contaminated with the trash and thrown away.
- The Chair recognized and thanked the Vice Chair for his contributions in his two years in office. He also thanked all of the Section Chiefs for their time and for offering assistance with any future issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|---|
| CE | County Executive |
| CNG | Compressed Natural Gas |
| DSWS | Division of Solid Waste Services |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| MDE | Maryland Department of the Environment |
| MES | Maryland Environmental Service |
| M-NCPPC | Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission |
| NOx | Nitrous Oxide |
| RFP | Request for Proposals |
| RRF | Resource Recovery Facility |
| SWAC | Solid Waste Advisory Committee |

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| SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 ATTENDANCE |
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| | J A N | F E B | M A R | A P R | M A Y | J U N | J U L | A U G | S E P | O C T | N O V | D E C | Absences In Last 12 Months | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alexander, Leslie | | X | | | X | | | | | | | | -2 | RESIGNED |
| Ducey, Sara | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | X | | -1 | |
| Findley, Steve | X | X | X | | | X | | | X | X | X | | -1 | |
| Filocco, Susan | | | | | X | | | | X | X | X | | -2 | |
| Frank, David | X | X | X | | X | X | | | X | X | X | | | |
| Glazer, Mark | X | X | X | | X | X | | | X | | X | | -1 | |
| Hall, Odell | | X | | | | X | | | | | X | | | WAIVER GRANTED 11/09 |
| Harrington, Marcia | X | X | X | | X | X | | | | X | X | | -1 | |
| Jenson, Paula | | X | X | | X | X | | | X | X | X | | -1 | |
| Lee, Ed | X | X | X | | | X | | | | X | | | -2 | RESIGNED 11/09 |
| Levine, Lee | X | X | X | | | X | | | X | X | X | | -1 | |
| Marks, Marcia | X | X | X | | X | X | | | X | X | X | | | |
| Osuch, Kurt | | | X | | X | | | | X | X | X | | -1 | |
| Simoneau, Craig | X | X | X | | | X | | | X | X | X | | -1 | |
| Sprague, Steve | X | X | X | | X | X | | | X | X | | | -1 | |
| Violette, Ed | X | X | X | | X | X | | | X | X | X | | | |

| SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2008 ATTENDANCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | J A N | F E B | M A R | A P R | M A Y | J U N | J U L | A U G | S E P | O C T | N O V | D E C | Absences In Last 12 Months | |
| Abralind, Jessica | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | -1 | |
| Alexander, Leslie | | X | X | | X | X | | | | X | | | -3 | |
| Findley, Steve | | | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | | | |
| Frank, David | X | X | X | X | | X | | | | X | X | | -1 | |
| Glazer, Mark | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | | | |
| Guernica, Mimi | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | | | |
| Hall, Odell | X | | X | | X | X | | | | X | X | | -2 | |
| Harrington, Marcia | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | X | | | -1 | |
| Jenson, Paula | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | | | |
| Lee, Ed | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | X | | -1 | |
| Levine, Lee | X | X | X | | | X | | | | X | X | | -2 | |
| Marks, Marcia | X | X | | | X | X | | | | X | X | | -2 | |
| McCarty, Sean | X | X | | X | X | | | | | | X | | -3 | |
| Simoneau, Craig | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | X | X | | -1 | |
| Sprague, Steve | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | | | |
| Violette, Ed | | | | X | X | X | | | | X | X | | | |